

MISCELLANY

Under this department are ordinarily grouped: News Items; Letters; Special Articles; Twenty-Five Years Ago column; California Board of Medical Examiners; and other columns as occasion may warrant. Items for News column must be furnished by the fifteenth of the preceding month. For Book Reviews, see index on the front cover, under Miscellany.

NEWS

Coming Meetings†

California Medical Association. Session will convene in Los Angeles. Dates of the seventy-fifth annual session, to be held in 1946, will be announced later.

American Medical Association. The 1945 Session, previously scheduled for Philadelphia, will not be held.

The Platform of the American Medical Association

The American Medical Association advocates:

1. *The establishment of an agency of Federal Government under which shall be coördinated and administered all medical and health functions of the Federal Government, exclusive of those of the Army and Navy.*

2. *The allotment of such funds as the Congress may make available to any state in actual need for the prevention of disease, the promotion of health, and the care of the sick or proof of such need.*

3. *The principle that the care of the public health and the provision of medical service to the sick is primarily a local responsibility.*

4. *The development of a mechanism for meeting the needs of expansion of preventive medical services with local determination of needs and local control of administration.*

5. *The extension of medical care for the indigent and the medically indigent with local determination of needs and local control of administration.*

6. *In the extension of medical services to all the people, the utmost utilization of qualified medical and hospital facilities already established.*

7. *The continued development of the private practice of medicine, subject to such changes as may be necessary to maintain the quality of medical service and to increase their availability.*

8. *Expansion of public health and medical services consistent with the American system of democracy.*

(Ed. Note.—Interpretative comments or principles included in the A.M.A. platform appear in CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE for December, 1939, on pages 394-395. For subsequent comment, see J.A.M.A., June 24, 1944, pp. 574-576. See also C. AND W. M. for August, 1945, pp. 61-62.)

Medical Broadcasts*

The Los Angeles County Medical Association:

The following is the Los Angeles County Medical Association's radio broadcast schedule for the current month, all broadcasts being given on Saturdays:

KFAC presents the Saturday programs at 10:15 a.m., under the title, "Your Doctor and You."

In August, KFAC will present these broadcasts on the following Saturdays: August 4, 11, 18, and 25.

The Saturday broadcasts of KFI are given at 9:45 a.m., under the title, "The Road to Health."
"Doctors at War":

Radio broadcasts of "Doctors at War" by the American Medical Association is on the air each Saturday at 1:30 p.m., Pacific War Time.

† In the front advertising section of *The Journal of the American Medical Association*, various rosters of national officers and organizations appear each week, each list being printed about every fourth week.

* County societies giving medical broadcasts are requested to send information as soon as arranged.

Pharmacological Items of Potential Interest to Clinicians*:

1. *Notes on Books:* In addition to Tom Keys' fine and finely illustrated account of *The History of Surgical Anesthesia*, the volume contains an excellent essay by Noel Gillespie pointed to the future, and a neat bibliographical account of Morton items by John Fulton (Schuman's, 20 E. 70, N. Y. 21, 1945, \$6). D. T. Starnes edition of W. Clowes' *Books of Medical Observations* (1596) is interesting but poorly lithoprinted (Scholars' Facsimiles and Reprints, N. Y., 1945). Another well illustrated pertinent survey is N. Taylor's *Cinchona in Java* (87 pp., Greenberg, N. Y., 1945, \$2.50). J. Wiley, 440 4th Ave., N. Y. 16, offers R. S. Bates' *Scientific Societies in the United States* at \$3.50 and A. L. and K. B. Winton's *Analysis of Foods* at \$12. W. B. Cannon stimulatingly discusses *The Way of an Investigator: A Scientist's Experiences in Medical Research*, in summing up his fruitful years (W. W. Norton, 70 5th Ave., N. Y. 11, 229 pp., 1945, \$3). A Kardiner studies *The Individual and His Society: The Psychodynamics of Primitive Social Organization* (Columbia Univ. Press, 305 pp., 1945, \$4). Important for book publication is R. J. Henry's *Mode of Action of Sulfonamides*, a fine critical review with 698 references (Publ. Josiah Macy Jr. Foundation, Review Series, 2:1-285, 1944). Note *Report of Survey of Medical Records Created by Federal Government* (National Research Council, 180 pp., Washington, 1945).

2. *Notes on Symposia:* Otherwise helpful symposium on sympathomimetic agents held by American Chemical Society (*Ind. Eng. Chem.*, 37:116-151, 1945) is unbalanced by failure to include summary by Gordon Alles. R. J. Williams & Co. issue interesting series of Cancer Studies (*Univ. Texas Publ.*, No. 4507, Austin, 1945) with articles on virus-like tumor agent by A. Taylor and tumor effects on Hb by R. E. Hungate. R. A. Willis offers stimulating review of recent advances in experimental production of tumors (*Med. J. Austral.*, 1:361, Apr. 14, 1945). About 600 reports in 1945 Federation Proceedings ranging from H. W. Ades on the corpus callosum to C. Weiss and N. Halliday on tuberculo-carbohydrates and phosphatides (*Fed. Proc.*, 4:1-166, 1945), of which fair share is Blakian!

3. *Summer Simmerings:* H. A. Howe tells why it doesn't help to be afraid of polio in an excellent summary of current thought (*Harper's*, 190:646, June, 1945). D. Ludwig offers a pertinent and well documented review on effects of atmospheric humidity on animal life (*Physiol. Zool.*, 18:103-135, 1945). T. F. Rose discusses urinary colic due to crystalluria and calculi in hot humid climates (*Med. J. Austral.*, 1:558, June 2, 1945). C. P. Mathe neatly reviews differential diagnosis and treatment of anuria (*Urol. Cutan. Rev.*, 49:223, 1945). R. M. Stecher makes a pleasant plea for more light (*Bull. Med. Lib. Assn.*, 33:220, 1945).

4. *Notes on Body Composition:* H. H. Mitchell & Co. discuss chemical composition of adult human body with reference to calcium and its bearing on biochemistry of growth, finding subjects vary by 25%, and that much calcium is lost by sweating (*J. Biol. Chem.*, 158:625, 1945). E. N. Rathbun, N. Pace & Co. find female body

* These items submitted by Dr. Chauncey D. Leake, formerly director of the University of California Pharmacological Laboratory, now dean of the University of Texas Medical School, Galveston, Texas.

averages 4.7% more fat than male; water averages 72.4% fat free body mass with standard deviation of 2.1%; chemically combined nitrogen averages 3.5% lean body mass, standard deviation 0.27%; lean body mass relatively constant, with fat as a diluent (*Ibid.*, p. 667-691). L. Arnold & Co. report general health and mental performance, but not physical prowess, is superior in good eater as compared with bad eaters in 7 year olds (*S. Afr. J. Med. Sci.*, 10:9, 1945).

5. Notes: J. K. W. Ferguson and L. P. Dugal note RQ of expired air may be used to calculate relations between CO₂ and O₂ tensions in alveolar air (*Canad. J. Res. Med. Sci.*, 23:32, 1945). H. Koteen gives encouraging survey of lymphogranuloma venereum (*Med.*, 24:1, 1945). F. C. Warring proposes estimation of ratio of maximum lung ventilation to walking ventilation as a guide to thorocoplasty (*Amer. Rev. Tb.*, 51:432, 1945). A. Lacassagne & Co. of reviving Paris find that application of weak carcinogenic hydrocarbons inhibits subsequent action of strong carcinogens of like molecular structure, by blocking (*Brit. J. Exp. Path.*, 26:5, 1945). A. K. James recommends 2 mgm carbaminoylcholine thrice or more daily to reduce migraine attacks (*Brit. Med. J.*, 1:663, May 12, 1945). E. J. Boell reports that nerve degeneration results in marked reduction in choline esterase activity (*J. Cell. Comp. Physiol.*, 25:75, 1945). H. Hartridge discusses change from trichromatic to dichromatic vision in human retina (*Nature*, 155:657, June 2, 1945).

Dr. Robert Peers, Colfax Mayor for 23 Years, Resigns.—Colfax (Placer Co.), July 11.—After serving as mayor of this city for more than 23 years, Dr. Robert A. Peers last night resigned from the city council. . . .

Dr. Peers first was elected to the city council in 1921 and in 1922 he was elected mayor, a post to which he has been reelected each successive two years.

The local physician, a former president of the California Medical Association, recently was elected a member of the board of trustees of the American Medical Association. . . .—*Sacramento Bee*, July 11.

Unusual Newspaper Advertisement.—One of the San Francisco pharmacies (Bowerman's) in a recent 4 by 4 inch display advertisement having the caption *Don't Neglect Your Doctor's Bill* gives additional advice as follows:

"It is your doctor who has studied for years to preserve life and maintain health. Working constantly, he is on call 24 hours a day. So when it is time to pay the bills, don't forget the man who does so much for you—your doctor."

On Prevention of Colds.—Everyone can achieve some immunity from acute respiratory infections such as colds; most people need never have a cold again, according to Dr. Marshall C. Cheney, associate physician, Student Health Service, on the Berkeley campus of the University of California. Summing up data secured from observations of eighteen years on more than 20,000 university students, Dr. Cheney says that cold vaccine plus proper hygiene and other therapeutic measures will protect all except those unfortunate individuals who have inherited extremely poor automatic defense. . . .—*University of California Clip Sheet*, July 23.

The Eye-Bank for Sight Restoration, Inc.—Teaching and research fellowships to extend the knowledge and skill required for the delicate operation which restores sight to a blind person with a corneal defect

through the grafting of healthy corneal tissue will be established in leading medical schools throughout the country by The Eye-Bank for Sight Restoration, Inc., 210 East 64th Street, New York City, it was recently disclosed by Mrs. Henry Breckinridge, executive director. To carry on this program of education and research, as well as its other activities, The Eye-Bank will undertake to raise \$1,000,000, Mrs. Breckinridge announced at national headquarters.

An initial grant of \$25,000 has been made by the Milbank Memorial Fund to enable The Eye-Bank to function pending the time when the importance of the undertaking may gain recognition and widespread support. It is hoped that financial support will be forthcoming from the general public in sums of any amount.

In a statement accompanying Mrs. Breckinridge's announcement, Albert G. Milbank, president of the Milbank Memorial Fund and chairman of the Advisory Council of The Eye-Bank, expressed "the hope and expectation that The Eye-Bank for Sight Restoration, Inc., will make important contributions to public health by advancing our knowledge of the pathology of the eye, thus making the prevention of eye diseases more effective, by improving or restoring the sight of persons who are handicapped by corneal opacities, and by its educational procedures which should arouse interest in sight conservation among physicians, specialists and the public."

Red Cross Announces Civilian Blood Donor Recruiting Program.—American Red Cross chapters throughout the nation will be permitted to recruit blood donors for civilians under a program announced by National Chairman Basil O'Connor. Under this project any Red Cross chapter may take part in the operation of a donor center for civilians sponsored by a recognized medical or health agency. The blood collected and the blood derivatives produced will be made available without cost to physicians, hospitals, clinics and patients.

This civilian program is entirely separate from the Blood Donor Service operated by the American Red Cross for the Armed Forces, and chapters in the eleven metropolitan centers where the Red Cross is now recruiting donors for the Army and Navy will not participate in it. These are: Los Angeles, San Francisco, Oakland, Portland, Ore., San Diego, Chicago, New York, Brooklyn, Boston, Philadelphia, and Washington.

The formal announcement of the new program stated in part:

"The need for provision of blood and such derivatives as blood plasma and immune (measles) globulin in amounts sufficient to meet civilian needs is very real and great. Their unique and vital place in medical practice, so strongly emphasized by the war, is becoming widely recognized by medical and health agencies throughout the country, and many of these agencies already have developed or are planning programs to insure the provision of blood and its derivatives to meet civilian needs. The American Red Cross is now preparing to help its chapters to assist in this essential service."

Assistance in establishing standards and conducting a civilian program will be made available to chapters through the five Red Cross area offices. The new project will be supervised by an advisory committee of specialists to be appointed.*

The National Society for the Prevention of Blindness, Inc.—The Leslie Dana Gold Medal, awarded annually for outstanding achievements in the prevention

(* Ed. Note.—For action of C.M.A. Council concerning a State Blood Bank in California, see CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE for June, on page 345, item 6.)

of blindness and the conservation of vision, will be presented this year to Dr. William Zentmayer of Philadelphia, it is announced by the National Society for the Prevention of Blindness.

This highly prized token of recognition in the field of public health is given upon the recommendation of the Association for Research in Ophthalmology.

Despite his 80 years, Dr. Zentmayer is in active practice as an ophthalmologist. He is Professor Emeritus of Diseases of the Eye, Graduate School of Medicine, University of Pennsylvania.

The conditions of the Leslie Dana Gold Medal award set forth that it is to be made for "long meritorious service in the conservation of vision in the prevention and cure of diseases dangerous to eyesight; research and instruction in ophthalmology and allied subjects; social service for the control of eye diseases; and special discoveries in the domain of general science or medicine of exceptional importance in conservation of vision."

Immune Serum Globulin for the Prophylaxis and Modification of Measles.—The report received from health officers and physicians through July 15, 1945, by the California State Department of Public Health on the use of immune serum globulin for the prophylaxis and modification of measles showed the following results:

Total reports received	448
No measles	304 (68%)
Measles	142 (32%)
Not stated	2

Of the 142 recipients who subsequently developed measles, 101 were classified as mild cases, 33 as moderately severe and only 8 as severe.

The reports also showed that in 330 cases or 74 per cent of the total, the immune serum globulin was administered within six days after the date of exposure.

This product may be ordered from: Bureau of Acute Communicable Diseases, California State Department of Public Health, 1122 Phelan Bldg., 760 Market St., San Francisco 2, California.

Press Clippings.—Some news items from the daily press on matters related to medical practice follow:

Physicians

It is a reasonable thought that reduction in the size of the army after the victory in Europe should free some doctors to return to civilian practice where there is a great shortage. However, this is not a matter for curb-stone opinion. A Senate subcommittee went to work yesterday on the only line that can develop the facts, an investigation. The Army may not like to let go of any of its doctors, but the Senate has means to find out whether it still needs all those in uniform or could spare some without harm. As to the present scarcity of physicians in many communities there is no question.

This is a matter on which, if the Senate finds good reason, it may be able to do something promptly. The question of an adequate number of physicians for civilian needs in the future, which the subcommittee also proposes to look into, is not subject to swift action. Classes in medical schools have fallen off markedly, due to the draft. These years lost in the training of doctors are gone and cannot be made up by short cuts if standards are to be maintained. To make them good eventually may need some special encouragement of young men to undertake the arduous course necessary to prepare for the practice of medicine.—Editorial in *San Francisco Chronicle*, July 12.

Rupert Hughes Address—On "Cradle to Grave" Proponents

On June 16, 1945, the National Broadcasting Company presented Rupert Hughes . . . soldier, novelist, historian and humorist. Some excerpts from his address follow:

We are indeed fearfully and wonderfully made; and we live in a fearful and wonderful world. The cosmic rays that pierce us with their subtle lightnings come from out-

side our sphere. The starlight that falls so gently upon our eyes may have come from some far star that died a hundred thousand years ago. Yet we shall never know it, for the last of its rays will not reach the earth for another fifty thousand years or more. . . .

The danger of life today—and a growing danger—is that in trying to make everybody on earth our neighbor and our responsibility, we shall have no neighbors at all and we shall become not helpers but horrible meddlers.

Today we are being hounded to death by professional lovers of all mankind, universal busybodies; who have taken the whole world as their nurseries.

They promise us "security from the cradle to the grave." But who wants such security as they could give from such people as they are? What we really want is security from the security-mongers.

But why guarantee us only security from the cradle to the grave. Why stop there? One of the most important things in life is selecting your grandfather and mother. Most people put it off till too late. Will the government take care of that prenatal insurance—give us security before the cradle?

And why stop providing Security at the edge of the grave? That's when insecurity really begins. And that's too late, usually, to do much about it. . . .

Can anyone really look at the government today and the vast armies of municipal, state and federal employees and bosses who make up government, and trust either his immortal soul or his mortal body to it? Can anybody look at that mob and call it Papa or Mama and feel safe in its arms? . . .

These people who would save everybody on earth from any of the risks of life are not really the big-hearted lovers of mankind they pretend to be. They are simply the old familiar type of philanthropist who is far sighted that he ignores the suffering all about him.

I have encountered those very people before in appeals I have made for certain poor sufferers I wanted them to help relieve. They actually answered, "We are going to put an end to poverty. We are too busy to turn aside for mere individuals."

So these cosmic benefactors who would feed all the earth, keep everybody rich and happy, are overlooking and trampling the wretchedness all about them.

You may have noticed that they themselves draw salaries. They do not employ others. They build no factories. They sell their writings and their eloquences, but pay no wages, feed no hungry. Their very philanthropy is for sale. While shouting slogans about providing for everybody, they provide first for themselves. They make good money and win themselves glittering names as philanthropists. But they are apt to be hollow shells when it comes to helping their immediate neighbors and their own poor relations.

The worst of it is that by monopolizing the claims to kindness and hogging up all the credit for loving mankind, they make the rest of us look selfish and cruel. If you say you are afraid to try to feed all the world, they point you out as a brute without heart.

Their latest atrocity is the slogan: "Poverty anywhere is a Menace everywhere."

That is a slogan to put an end to all slogans. . . .

These omnibus philanthropists who would save all mankind or none, used to wait that more than one-third of our population is ill-fed, ill-housed, and ill-clothed. And they said that the government must try to feed everybody well, give everybody what he thinks is a proper house, and dress him and her to their liking.

Where will they stop? Everybody will make everybody rich.

Could anything be more insane? Nothing, except most of the other proposals of these fanatics who are running away with people's wits. What is it to be ill-fed? Most of us eat far too much. What is it to be ill-clothed? The sunlight is medicine. Ill-housed? He who has a mansion envies him who has a castle. . . .

Permanente Hospital Pharmaceutical House

Infra-red lamps have gone into pharmacy. They do highly important work in the plant of Royfield and Company, 4921 Broadway, Oakland, manufacturers of pharmaceutical products and distributors of hospital supplies and equipment. This firm's primary purpose is to furnish medicines and other essentials to the Permanente Hospitals established, at the suggestion of Henry J. Kaiser, in Oakland, Richmond, Fontana and Vancouver, Washington. But the establishment also serves other institutions and industries. It is owned by Dr. Sidney R. Garfield, director of the Permanente Hospitals, and his associate, Dr. C. C. Cutting. . . .—*San Francisco P. G. and E. Progress*, July.